WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a liquid crystal layer;

a first substrate located closer to a viewer than the liquid crystal layer is;

a second substrate arranged so as to face the first substrate with the liquid crystal layer interposed between the first and second substrates; and

a first polarizer located even closer to the viewer than the first substrate is; wherein

the first substrate includes a first plastic substrate on which a plurality of fibers are aligned in a first direction, and

the first polarizer is aligned such that the transmission axis of the first polarizer is either substantially parallel to, or substantially perpendicular to, the first direction.

2. The liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein the first plastic substrate further includes another plurality of fibers that are aligned in a second direction intersecting with the first direction.

3. The liquid crystal display device of claim 2, wherein the first and second directions intersect with each

other substantially at right angles.

4. The liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein the first plastic substrate has an in-plane retardation and is arranged such that a direction in which the refractive index thereof becomes the highest within a plane of the substrate defines an angle of less than about 45 degrees with respect to the transmission axis of the first polarizer.

5. The liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein the first plastic substrate has no in-plane retardations.

6. The liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein a first alignment film which is subjected to a rubbing treatment, is arranged on the first substrate so as to face the liquid crystal layer, and the rubbing direction of the first alignment film is arranged so as to be either substantially parallel to, or substantially perpendicular to, the first direction.

7. The liquid crystal display device of claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal layer is a TN liquid crystal layer, and

wherein the device further includes:

a second polarizer arranged on the second substrate such that the second substrate is sandwiched between the liquid crystal layer and the second polarizer; and

at least one phase plate located at least one of between the first substrate and the liquid crystal layer and between the second substrate and the liquid crystal layer; wherein

the first and second polarizers are arranged such that the transmission axes thereof are either substantially perpendicular to, or substantially parallel to, each other, and

if the index ellipsoid of the at least one phase plate has an a-axis, a b-axis and a c-axis as principal axes that cross each other at right angles and if principal refractive indices on the a-axis, the b-axis and the c-axis are na, nb and nc, respectively, then $na = nb > nc$ is satisfied, the a-axis is located within the plane of the at least one phase plate, and the c-axis defines a tilt angle θ within a bc plane with respect to a line that is perpendicular to the phase plate; and

the at least one phase plate is arranged such that the c-axis thereof is substantially parallel to the absorption axis of the first or second polarizer that is provided on the same side of the liquid crystal layer as the at least one phase plate.